

ENERGY AND COMMERCEOVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
VICE CHAIRMAN

ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE
INTERNET**RESOURCES**FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH
CHAIRMAN

WATER AND POWER



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

April 1, 2005

GREG WALDEN
 2D DISTRICT, OREGON
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

 WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
 1210 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3702
 TELEPHONE: (202) 225-6730

 DISTRICT OFFICES:
 843 EAST MAIN STREET
 SUITE 400
 MEDFORD, OR 97504
 TELEPHONE: (541) 776-4646
 TOLL FREE: (800) 533-3303

 JAMISON BUILDING
 SUITE 201
 131 NW HAWTHORNE STREET
 BEND, OR 97701
 TELEPHONE: (541) 389-4408

 WEBSITE:
<http://walden.house.gov>
 (E-MAIL AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE)

Honorable Gordon England
 Secretary of the Navy
 1000 Navy Pentagon
 Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary England:

We are writing to request that you examine the records of Colonel Rex T. Barber to consider the award of a posthumous Medal of Honor pursuant to section 1130 of title 10, United States Code.

Colonel Barber performed conspicuous acts of gallantry above and beyond the call of duty on April 18, 1943, while serving as a First Lieutenant attached to the 339th Fighter Squadron of the South Pacific Air Forces, Army Air Force. His heroic actions that day were essential to the successful attack and downing of the enemy bomber aircraft transporting Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the Commander in Chief of the Combined Japanese Fleet and architect of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. The shoot-down of Admiral Yamamoto was among the most consequential missions of World War II, and his death badly damaged Japanese morale at a critical time in the War.

At the time, Colonel Barber was recommended for the Medal of Honor with favorable endorsements up to the Commander South Pacific Forces, but due to the clandestine nature of the operation and the lack of information regarding Yamamoto's downing that was forthcoming before the end of the war, he was instead awarded the Navy Cross. (Barber received a Navy decoration, rather than Air Force or Army, because at the time of the mission he was attached to the Marine Fighter Command.) Now that security concerns have faded and the far-reaching effects of Barber's action are more apparent, it's time to reconsider Rex Barber for our nation's highest military award. To fully consider the scope of Colonel Barber's actions as well as evidence that was not known to all at the time of the original award, we ask that the case be granted a de novo review in accordance with the provisions of section 1130.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the attached information. Please contact Matt Byrne at 202-226-7341 to facilitate contact with Colonel Barber's family or procure any other supplemental material that you might find helpful in this case.

Sincerely,

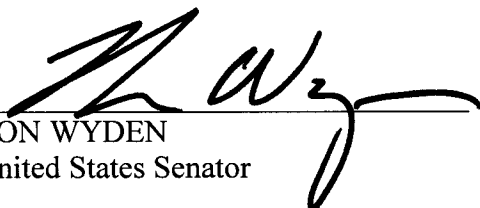
GREG WALDEN
 Member of Congress

GORDON SMITH
 United States Senator

Honorable Gordon England

April 1, 2005

Page Two



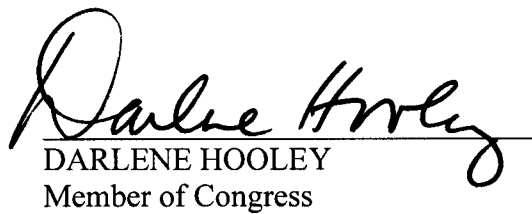
RON WYDEN
United States Senator



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



DAVID WU
Member of Congress